**English garden and the culture of gardening in Russia**

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In this project I have an intention to review the notion of gardening in Britain and in Russia from the very beginning. It is important to compare and examine the reflections of these two cultures on each other.

It seems to me that, it is necessary to define the modern meaning of “gardening” in both countries and identify the associations for these definitions.

In modern Britain “Gardening is the practice of growing and cultivating plants as part of horticulture. In gardens, ornamental plants are often grown for their flowers, foliage, or overall appearance; useful plants, such as root vegetables, leaf vegetables, fruits, and herbs, are grown for consumption, for use as dyes, or for medicinal or cosmetic use. Gardening is considered to be a relaxing activity for many people”

In comparison to Russia, gardening is dominantly the growth of fruits and vegetables. It is hardly consider being a relaxing activity. Every summer most gardeners spend their weekends at “dacha”, a great majority of them work quite hard to provide families with vegetables and fruits. According to statistics, in 2011, 51% of Russia's food was grown either by dacha communities (40%), or peasant farmers (11%) leaving the rest (49%) of production to the large agricultural enterprises.



However, the substantial part of my review will be dedicated to historical aspect of gardening in both counties. I will look at culture of gardening through the centuries and found out the reasons for diversity, even contrast between Russia and Britain in a current situation.

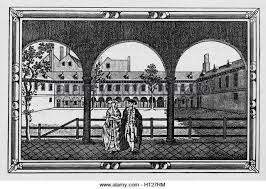
## Картинки по запросу fishbourne palaceFrom the beginning… Romans and anglo-saxons

The history of British gardens dated back to Romans invasion in 43 AC The Romans were Britain’s first pleasure gardeners. They settled on this island of fertile soil and ample rain and filled it with exotic new species such as plums, cherries, apples, carrots, lavender, rosemary and others. The best example is probably Fishbourne Roman Palace in Sussex, where an early garden has been partly reconstructed. The garden in Fishbourne shows a symmetrical formal planting of low box hedges, there is also a kitchen garden which is planted with fruits and vegetables common in Roman Britain. The principals of Roman garden introduced more than 2,000 years ago still widely used in Britain.

The arrival of Anglo- Saxons changed the purpose of gardens, from places of pleasure to places of profit. A garden was a place to grow fruit and vegetables and the new ruling elite had no time for plants they could not eat or use for cures or craft. Basically, the inhabitants of Britain returned to the Celts traditions of cultivating the land only for food.

## Middle ages

By the Middle Ages monasteries controlled a quarter of English land. Monks were expected to grow all their own food and their huge estates extended way beyond the main buildings. The great monastic orders exchanged seeds and plants across Europe.  Monasteries had both kitchen gardens and herb gardens to provide the practicalities of food and medicine. The most important monastic garden was the cloister. There was an open green space surrounded by covered walks, generally with a well, or fountain at the center.

Monastic garden

Unfortunately, we know a little about those gardens, that were created in the 16th-17th centuries, and even less - about the gardens of Ancient Rus. If in other forms of art, such as architecture, sculpture, painting, ancient monuments in one form or another are preserved for thousands of years, then the gardens and parks disappear almost completely.

The origin of gardens in Russia dates back to Kiev Russia in the 11–12th centuries, when Byzantine monks created first gardens in Kiev under the monasteries’ aegis. In the middle ages, monastery gardens appeared in all Russian principalities — from Kiev to Novgorod and Moscow. According to Russian horticulturalist and historian of gardens A.E. Regel, “the monastery gardens entranced local inhabitants and pious Tzars and Tzarinas alike. After the monastery gardens there appeared at first Tzarist, and also, of course, boyar gardens, which were as closely modeled on the monastery ones as possible, and in the end the locals followed suit, which resulted in the whole of Moscow being adorned with gardens.”

*Monastery of Saint Euthymius Wall, Suzdal, Russia*

Monastries in Russia were selfefficiant , they produced fruits and vegetables for the monks and for the community. As well as in Britain, Russian monks cultiveted herbs for the medical purperse, including : Lavender, Parsley, Rose (wild), Chamomile, Basil, Garlic, Sage etc.

By the twelfth century the gardens were widely spread across the country, owned by citizens as well as courtiers and monks. Formal gardens at Medieval castles became an essential element on the aristocratic estate. Turf seats, high mounds and mounts were the main features; they provided a view over the castle walls.

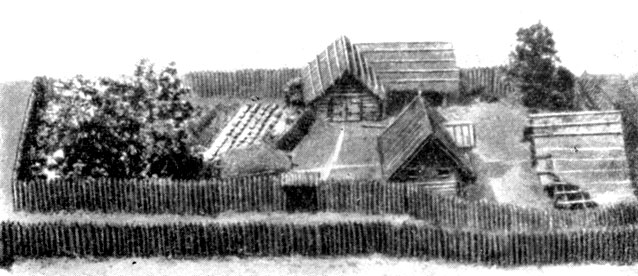
## 15-16 centuries

 Towards the end of the fifteenth century, British gardens came under the influence of Renaissance design ideas, from Italy, France and Holland. The gardens of the sixteenth century, often described as Tudor, were part-medieval and part-renaissance in character. Once again, sundials and statues made an appearance, having been left out since the Roman Gardens. The most prominent contribution from the Tudor was of course the Knot Garden.

Knot gardens consisted of geometric or square patterns of hedges filled with flowers, hedges and herbs. They were designed to be viewed from a higher level such as a raised walk to allow you to view the whole pattern. At Moseley Old Hall, Staffordshire, the one acre garden of this house, built around 1600, is a modern recreation of what might have been here in the early 17th century. The layout is based on what's known about similar gardens of the period creating an enclosed garden together with a geometric knot garden. In this kind of gardens, flowers, cultivated not only for their beauty but for flavoring sweets and desserts. Favorites were violets, marigolds, and most importantly the rose. Fountains and automated water features to animate the garden, reflecting an interest in hydraulics.

*Moseley Old Hall, Staffordshire*

Gardens appeared in Russia in the 15–16th centuries, were closely modeled on the monastery ones.

How did Russian garden look like in 15-16 centuries? There were almost exclusively fruit "vegetable gardens," even in the court gardens and suburban Tzarist and Boyar manors, utilitarian aims were mainly pursued. Decorative flower gardens appear later, by the end of the 17 century. The manor house was located on an elevated place, surrounded by a palisade - "tyn". The "vegetable garden" itself was planted with trees, fruit trees and shrubs, between which vegetables grew on the beds. Sometimes in the open area were arranged covered greenhouses, in which melons and other crops were grown. There were also plants in the garden: lilac, viburnum, hawthorn, dogrose. Below, on the bank of a river, a stream or a lake , a “banya” was built.

*Reconstruction, House in Russia, 15-16 centuries.*



*Little Moreton Hall and Garden 16 century*

These two pictures show clearly the obvious differences between gardens in Russia and Britain. Apart from the appearance the purpose of the gardens in these counties was diverse. The situation in Russia began to change under Tzar Alexey Mikhailovich. During his rule in the second half of the 17th century, first attempts were made to examine European examples of garden design.

## 17-18 centuries

The guiding principle of the English 17th century garden was symmetry and order. Classical facades of great palaces were matched by geometric formal landscaping, featuring ornate carpets of floral designs, walls of clipped hedges, carefully-coloured gravel paths, and rows of statues and fountains.

Ham House in London was the first estate where house and garden were conceived together. The main feature of Ham House garden is a series of eight large plats or lawns. To modern eyes these seem rather plain, but lawns were cut by hand and a park on this scale could only be maintained by a small army of gardeners. Only a solitary formal 17th century garden has survived changing horticultural fashions.

*Ham House in London*

 From the second half of the 17th century, during the reign of Mikhail Fedorovich and Alexei Mikhailovich Romanov, after years of devastation and troubled times, construction activity revived in Moscow, old gardens were reborn and new ones. Izmailovo was the estate, where, since 1663, Tzar Alexei Mikhailovich decides to convert to a place of farming , in order to further spread this experience throughout the Russian state. In Izmailovo, a system of ponds (more than thirty) created, in which fish of different species (sterlet, carp, pike, carp, etc.) were bred, linen, glass and iron foundries are organized, the first botanical garden, plants to which were delivered from various regions of Russia and also from abroad gardens . Izmaylovsky gardens were famous for the whole of Russia and even far beyond its borders: Vine, Aptekarsky, Prosyansky, Round, Ostrovskaya, Labyrinth Babylon. These were one of the first regular gardens in Russia, in which the utilitarian principle was combined with the artistic one. In addition to fruit and crops, ornamental plants were also widely represented. In the Izmailovo gardens were planted white lilies, terry peonies, tulips, carnations.

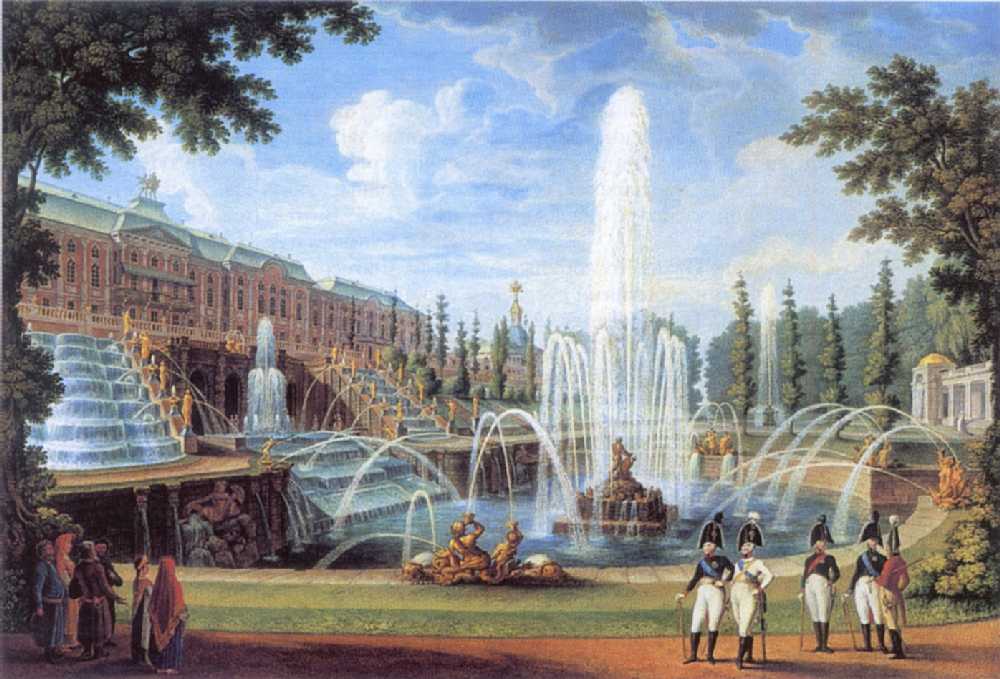
By the end of 1700s the clipped order of the great English garden was swept away. Lines were no longer straight, paths curve and wander, and parterres are replaced by grass. Trees were planted in clusters rather than in straight lines, and rounded lakes replaced the rectangular ponds of the earlier style. The garden became open, a park joining the house to the outside world rather than a carefully nurtured refuge from it. The first example of this “natural” garden was Chiswick House designed by William Kent. (completed in 1729)

*Chiswick House, London Pavlovsk, St. Petersburg*

The best Russian park of this kind is in Pavlovsk ( in 1781 construction began) , a suburb of St. Petersburg. Pavlovsk is among the world’s largest landscape parks, covering 600 ha (ca. 1,500 acres). It was the summer residence of Paul I, the son of Katherine the Great. One can identity three periods in the formation of the park. The first principal architect and major contributor to Pavlovsk, was C. Cameron. The English park designed by him and laid out in landscape style lies in the immediate vicinity of the palace. Cameron designed a number of fine buildings in the park, such as The Temple of Friendship, The Apollo Colonnade and The Memorial to the Parents.

To understand the reasons for such a rapid development of garden art in Russia, it is necessary to go back to the end of the 17th century, when the Peter “The Great” came to the power. In 1710s, he invited a number of landscape designers, gardeners and botanists from all over Europe to set up his gardens near St. Petersburg, including: Peterhof, Letny (Summer) garden and Gatchina garden. Starting the construction, Peter visited the finest park ensembles of France (including Versailles), where he examined the details of High Baroque, or French formal style of garden design, and made his own sketches.  Peterhof was Peter’s answer to Versailles. Peter decided that the palace should be built on a natural terrace overlooking the sea. The park consists of the Lower garden and the Upper garden; between them picturesque terraces raise one upon the other. Many famous architects were involved in the design of the palace and parks, including C. Rastrelli, Y. Velten, Vallin de la Mothe, Le Blond, N. Michetti and M. Zemtsov. The Lower garden is arranged in the formal style, and the fountains are the most important elements. According to the Peter’s plan, it was devoted to the military glory of the young Russian fleet. For example, the famous fountain "Samson, tearing the jaws of a lion", standing in the center of the Grand Cascade, recalls the victory of Peter over the Swedish king Charles Twelfth in the Northern War.

*Peterhof*

Oranienbaum and Gatchina are the further examples of historical parks. They were built in the first and second parts of 18th century, respectively. Both parks were designed in the free style, however, they have parts that are laid out in regular symmetrical proportions.

The second half of the 18th century — the period associated with Catherine II (ruled in 1762–1796) was a time of prosperity for gardens in the empire. At that time, Russia held a position as one of the leading countries in the garden arrangement. The development of gardens was assisted by the socio-economic policy under Catherine’s rule. Important reform of Catherine’s rule was the land reform, which resulted in the formation of estate gentry as a separate class. Estates quickly acquired a representative significance. Botanical collection became part of a noble culture for the Russian estate aristocracy. It served as an amusement, an amateur scientific pastime. Gorenki was the most famous private botanical garden that had ever existed in Russia. Enormous Gorenki estate of around 730 hectares belonged to the prominent family line of Razumovsky counts. The botanical history of Gorenki began with count Alexei Razumovsky, who started his collection on the break of the 19th century. The Gorenki garden existed only until the mid 1820s. After the death of Razumovsky in 1822, the collection was no longer kept in proper condition.

## 19-20 centuries

Meanwhile in Britain, the age of the industrial revolution also bought with it the boom in gardening. The interest in gardening exploded and for the first time authorities felt the need to provide extensive public gardens. It was hoped that these gardens would improve the etiquette and manners of the lower classes. In 1835, when London’s Regent’s Park stopped charging an admission fee – imposed to keep out the lower classes – it became the country’s first public park. Others followed, including Victoria Park, built to reduce the death rate in London’s East End.

**The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew were the cornerstone of the Victorian plant boom. Much of this was the legacy of the adventurer, landowner and botanist Joseph Banks who sailed with Captain Cook on the Endeavour – the most daring voyage of discovery of modern times. Celebrated as a hero on his return in 1771, he brought back 1,300 new species of plants.

*The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew* (left) *Regents Park*

Industry has been flourishing in Russia since the end of the 19th century and the beginning the 20th century. Many new cities were created and old ones were also developed. The public gardens established at that time were full of flowers. Sometimes the flowers played the role of color spots; they were set up in geometrical compositions or in flower beds

After the Bolshevik Revolution, all private estates were nationalized, some of them converted into vacation homes for the working class, while others, usually of better quality, were distributed among the prominent functionaries of the Communist Party.

During the Second World War, the food situation of Russian city-dwellers deteriorated substantially, in particular in Leningrad, where the siege created a horrifying food situation. The Soviet authorities were then forced to change their policy and to encourage the development of urban gardening.

The outbreak of the First and Second World Wars had a devastating effect on British gardens too. The gardens declined and became ‘lost’.

## 21 century

 Gertrude Jekyll was the most influential gardener of 20- 21th centuries England. Her ideas built on the traditional Cottage gardens, which were popular in the 1890’s and featured a mixture of ornamental and edible plants along with dense plantings, fruit trees, trellises and walls. Jekyll’s ideas have endured and her influence is as powerful today as it was during her lifetime.

As times go by, most countries recovered from the wars. From post-war to post-crash austerity, in recent times opportunities for new public parks and gardens might have appeared limited. But as our cities grow, green space has become an increasingly essential part of our local and national heritage.

The modern art gardens in Britain and Russia hardly could be distinguished from each other.

 Russia

Britain

In 2001, a derelict and polluted clay pit in Cornwall was redeveloped. Domed biomes with microclimates were built where visitors can experience a tropical rainforest and a Mediterranean garden. Outside is a plant collection where this year they have planted 40 redwood trees to establish a future forest.

 *Cornwall Domes*

 It is necessary to mention the annual Chelsea Flower Show as a reflection of true attitude of British people to subject of “gardening”

Chelsea Flower Show.

The phenomenon of “dacha” in Russia could be explained due historical events and political instability. Russian people don’t depend on government and rely on their families and friends. Thus, fruits, vegetables and other plants, which were grown on “dacha” usually preserve by different means (drying, pickle, freezing) for the winter period. Dacha is also a place of rest and recreation for a section of the urban population that has no opportunity to go on holiday elsewhere. For some people, dacha is a place for varied social interaction, like barbeque with friends and pleasant time spend with children. Many people associate gardens with memories of vanished loved ones who helped to cultivate the plot or build the house. Physical activity in a calm atmosphere helps them rediscover themselves, to deal with stress, and to meditate on life and its joys and sorrows. Moreover, many Russian gardeners tend to grow less vegetables and fruits, but prefer flowers and lawn on their dachas.

Dacha in late 90th Dacha in early 20th

## Conclusion

It happened to be that the history of gardening in Britain started much earlier than in Russia. The early references of gardening in Russia could be found in icons and prints of 12-15th centuries. However, the culture of gardening was brought by Peter the Great, only in the end of 17th century. Later, in the 18-19th centuries the rapid development and popularity of gardening in Russia was highly influenced by Britain, France and Holland. At that time the parks and gardens of Moscow and St. Petersburg were as beautiful and grand as parks and gardens of Britain. Unfortunately, the outbreak of the First World War and Bolshevik Revolution had a drastic effect on all spheres of life in Russia. The whole Europe suffered from the consequences of Second World War. These sorrowful events led to declining of the gardening in both counties. Nevertheless, Britain soon recovered and gained a rightful title as a trendsetter of gardening in Europe.

The approaches and principals of gardening in Britain and Russia are different; however the people in both countries always had a passion for gardening.

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